

Applic. No. 10/776,361
Amdt. dated September 22, 2006
Reply to Office action of August 8, 2006

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An apparatus for conveying sheets to a sheet processing machine, comprising:

a feed table;

at least one suction belt disposed to be guided over said feed table and to be subjected to suction air from an underside thereof;

said at least one suction belt having at least two mutually spaced-apart rows of suction openings formed therein and a continuous region, substantially without any openings, between said spaced-apart rows of suction openings; and

said feed table having ventilation openings formed therein directly underneath said continuous region between said rows of suction openings.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1 [[5]], which comprises mutually parallel suction boxes connected to said feed table, said suction boxes communicating

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with said rows of suction openings for supplying suction air to said rows of suction openings, and a common vacuum source communicating with said suction boxes.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said feed table includes a covering plate covering said suction boxes on top, said covering plate forming a guide for said suction belt.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said covering plate is formed with said rows of suction apertures and with said ventilation openings.

Claim 5 (cancelled).